

**Grade:** All  
**Time:** 1 hour  
**Season:** Spring, summer, fall

## **Fishing**

### **National Science Teaching Standards**

- A.** Science as **INQUIRY**
- C.** **LIFE** Science
- D.** **EARTH** Science
- F.** Science in **PERSONAL** and **SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE**

### **Background Information:**

Fishing is a relaxing sport that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds. Fishing can also be used as a “carrot” to draw young people and even adults into the nature world. Besides learning new skills, first-time anglers are acquainted with the aquatic ecosystem. This brings them into contact with important conservation and environmental problems.

### **Objectives:**

- Students will become familiar with basic equipment needed to fish.
- Students will learn basic casting techniques with a spin cast tackle.
- Students will become acquainted with general fishing regulations and ethical concepts
- Students will be introduced to the fish commonly found in Iowa farm ponds.

### **Pre Activity:**

- Invite a fishing parent into your classroom to go over fishing gear and tackle. Also, have them demonstrate casting and supervise while students practice.
- Research on the internet the common fish found in Iowa (see Background Information pp.1-2)
- Research common plants found around and in Iowa ponds.
- Make a class mural of a typical Iowa farm pond; having each child draw or make in anyway 1-2 objects to put in the mural. Each child shares what they put in the “pond” and a couple of facts about the objects.

### **Equipment:**

- Copy of Iowa Fishing Regulations
- Handouts of Iowa farm pond fish and characteristics (from the Background Information pp.1-2) Also use mounts in the basement of the dining hall.
- Fishing rods and reels (Springbrook Conservation Education Center can provide 36)  
\*Groups are welcome to bring additional tackle, rods and reels.

### **Procedure:**

1. Hand out the fishing regulations and go over briefly.

2. Show the students the common fish found in Iowa farm ponds (Background Information pp.1-2)
3. Briefly go over equipment (Background Information pp.3-4)
4. Explain and demonstrate basic spin-casting techniques. (Background Information pp.5-6)
5. In an open area, allow students to practice casting. Use casting plugs if you are going to do this.
6. Carry tackle to fishing area.
7. Before fishing go over safety rules:
  - Students need to spread out so you have plenty of room for casting.
  - Always look around to be sure the area is clear before casting.
  - Catch and Release...discuss what it is and the ethics of it.
  - While walking with pole, be sure hook is secured to pole.
  - Retrieve all bobbers, fishing line that has snapped off your pole.
8. Demonstrate and help students attach bait to hooks.
9. GO FISHING!!!
10. Help students identify the fish they catch. Help them remove fish from the hook and release them back into the water.
11. Collect all gear, secure hook to pole, and head back to facility.
12. Wash hands with soap and water.

**Post Activity:**

- Have students write a letter to a parent, relative, or friend that fishes. The student should explain the field trip to Springbrook Education Center and the fun they at the fishing activity! Ask this person in a polite manner if they could take him/her fishing sometime soon or the next time they are headed out on a fishing adventure.

**Post Discussion:**

- Discuss the characteristics of the fish caught or common to Iowa.
- Have students list food chains in Iowa ponds.
- How does fishing affect the food chains, the food web, the balance in this wetland habitat?
- What other things affect the pond habitat?
- Why are there rules and regulations for fishing?
- Why are people required to get fishing licenses?
- Discuss safety issues being around a farm pond, river, and/or lake in Iowa.
- Discuss fishing as a hobby, sport, and occupation.
- How has fishing changed through history?